

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A computerized method for executing a guideline encoded in a format based on one of a plurality of guideline representation models, the method comprising:
 - identifying the encoding format of the guideline;
 - translating the guideline from the identified encoding format into a generic representation model format, using a generic guideline execution engine capable of executing a guideline in the generic representation format, and capable of executing guidelines originally encoded in a format based on one of a plurality of guideline representation models;
 - and
 - executing the translated guideline.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the guideline comprises at least one representation element, and the generic representation model defines at least one generalized guideline execution task, the method comprising translating at least one representation element of the guideline from the original encoding format into structure elements and execution constraints of the generalized guideline execution task.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein translation is based on a mapping relationship between the generic guideline representation model format and the identified guideline representation model format in which the guideline was originally encoded.
4. The method of claim 3, comprising retrieving the mapping relationship between the generic guideline representation model format and the identified guideline representation model format in which the guideline was originally encoded.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the generic representation model comprises at least one generalized guideline execution task, the method comprising creating at least one primary guideline execution task based on the generalized guideline execution task.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the primary guideline execution task comprises at least one of subtasks, input elements, output elements, and execution constraints.

5 7. The method of claim 6, comprising creating a process structure for the guideline based on the primary guideline execution task.

8. The method of claim 7, comprising executing the guideline based on the process structure and the primary guideline execution task.

10 9. The method of claim 8, comprising scheduling particular primary guideline execution tasks for execution based on the process structure and execution constraints of specific primary guideline execution tasks.

15 10. The method of claim 1, comprising storing the translated guideline in the generic guideline representation model format, the translated guideline accessible for executing an instance of the guideline.

11. A computerized method for executing a guideline encoded in a format based on one of a plurality of guideline representation models, the method comprising:

20 identifying the encoding format of the guideline;
retrieving a mapping relationship between a generic guideline representation model format and the identified guideline representation model format in which the guideline was originally encoded;

25 translating the guideline from the identified encoding format into a generic representation model format based on the mapping relationship, using a generic guideline execution engine capable of executing a guideline in the generic representation format, and capable of executing guidelines originally encoded in a format based on one of a plurality of guideline representation models;

30 creating a primary guideline execution task based on at least one generalized guideline execution task defined by the generic representation model;

creating a process structure for the guideline based on the primary guideline execution task;

scheduling primary tasks for execution based on the process structure and execution constraints for the primary guideline execution task; and
executing at least one primary guideline execution task.

5 12. A computerized method for executing a guideline, comprising executing an instance of the guideline encoded in a generic guideline representation model format translated from an original format based on one of a plurality of guideline execution models, the original format translated based on a mapping relationship between the generic guideline representation model format and the particular guideline representation model format in
10 which the guideline was originally encoded.

13. A computerized method for providing a guideline encoded in a format based on a generic guideline execution model, the method comprising translating at least one representation element of a guideline encoded in a format based on one of a plurality of 15 guideline execution models into structure elements and execution constraints of at least one generalized guideline execution task defined by the generic guideline execution model.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein translation is based on a mapping relationship between the generic guideline execution model format and the guideline 20 execution model format in which the guideline was originally encoded.

15. The method of claim 13, wherein the guideline provided in the generic execution model comprises at least one primary guideline execution task created based on the generalized guideline execution task.
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16. The method of claim 15, wherein the primary guideline execution task comprises at least one of subtasks, input elements, output elements, and execution constraints.

30 17. The method of claim 16, wherein the guideline provided in the generic execution model comprises a process structure for the guideline created based on the primary guideline execution task.

18. A system for executing a guideline encoded in a format based on one of a plurality of guideline representation models, the system comprising at least one computing device including software that, when executed, performs a method comprising:

5 identifying the encoding format of the guideline;
translating the guideline from the identified encoding format into a generic representation model format, using a generic guideline execution engine capable of executing a guideline in the generic representation format, and capable of executing guidelines originally encoded in a format based on one of a plurality of guideline representation models;

10 and
executing the translated guideline.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the guideline comprises at least one representation element, and the generic representation model defines at least one generalized guideline execution task, the method comprising translating at least one representation element of the guideline from the original encoding format into structure elements and execution constraints of the generalized guideline execution task.

20. The system of claim 18, wherein translation is based on a mapping relationship between the generic guideline representation model format and the identified guideline representation model format in which the guideline was originally encoded.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein the method comprises retrieving the mapping relationship between the generic guideline representation model format and the identified guideline representation model format in which the guideline was originally encoded.

22. The system of claim 18, wherein the generic representation model comprises at least one generalized guideline execution task, the method comprising creating at least one primary guideline execution task based on the generalized guideline execution task.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the primary guideline execution task comprises at least one of subtasks, input elements, output elements, and execution constraints.

5 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the method comprises creating a process structure for the guideline based on the primary guideline execution task.

25. The system of claim 24, wherein the method comprises executing the guideline based on the process structure and the primary guideline execution task.

10 26. The system of claim 25, wherein the method comprises scheduling particular primary guideline execution tasks for execution based on the process structure and execution constraints of specific primary guideline execution tasks.

15 27. The system of claim 18, wherein the method comprises storing the translated guideline in the generic guideline representation format, the translated guideline accessible for executing an instance of the guideline.

20 28. A system for executing a guideline encoded in a format based on one of a plurality of guideline representation models, the system comprising at least one computing device including software, that when, executed performs a method comprising:

identifying the encoding format of the guideline;

retrieving a mapping relationship between a generic guideline representation model format and the identified guideline representation model format in which the guideline was originally encoded;

25 translating the guideline from the identified encoding format into a generic representation model format based on the mapping relationship, using a generic guideline execution engine capable of executing a guideline in the generic representation format, and capable of executing guidelines originally encoded in a format based on one of a plurality of guideline representation models;

30 creating a primary guideline execution task based on at least one generalized guideline execution task defined by the generic representation model;

creating a process structure for the guideline based on the primary guideline execution task;

scheduling primary tasks for execution based on the process structure and execution constraints for the primary guideline execution task; and

5 executing at least one primary guideline execution task.

29. A system for executing a guideline comprising at least one computing device including software that when executed performs a method comprising executing an instance of the guideline encoded in a generic guideline representation model translated from 10 an original format based on one of a plurality of guideline execution models, the original format translated based on a mapping relationship between the generic guideline representation model format and the particular guideline representation model format in which the guideline was originally encoded.

15 30. A system for providing a guideline encoded in a format based on a generic guideline execution model, the system comprising at least one computing device including software that, when executed, performs a method comprising translating at least one representation element of a guideline encoded in a format based on one of a plurality of guideline execution models into structure elements and execution constraints of at least one 20 generalized guideline execution task defined by the generic guideline execution model.

31. The system of claim 30, wherein translation is based on a mapping relationship between the generic guideline execution model format and the guideline execution model format in which the guideline was originally encoded.

25 32. The system of claim 30, wherein the guideline provided in the generic execution model comprises at least one primary guideline execution task created based on the generalized guideline execution task.

30 33. The system of claim 32, wherein the primary guideline execution task comprises at least one of subtasks, input elements, output elements, and execution constraints.

34. The system of claim 33, wherein the guideline provided in the generic execution model comprises a process structure for the guideline created based on the primary guideline execution task.

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35. A computer-readable medium comprising at least one software component that, when executed, performs a method comprising:

identifying the encoding format of the guideline;

translating the guideline from the identified encoding format into a generic

10 representation model format, with a generic guideline execution engine capable of executing a guideline in the generic representation format, and capable of executing guidelines originally encoded in a format based on one of a plurality of guideline representation models; and

executing the translated guideline.

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36. The computer-readable medium of claim 35, wherein the guideline comprises at least one representation element, and the generic representation model defines at least one generalized guideline execution task, and the method comprises translating at least one representation element of the guideline from the original encoding format into structure elements and execution constraints of the generalized guideline execution task.

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25 37. The computer-readable medium of claim 35, wherein translation is based on a mapping relationship between the generic guideline representation model format and the identified guideline representation model format in which the guideline was originally encoded.

30 38. The computer-readable medium of claim 37, wherein the method comprises retrieving the mapping relationship between the generic guideline representation model format and the identified guideline representation model format in which the guideline was originally encoded.

39. The computer-readable medium of claim 35, wherein the generic representation model comprises at least one generalized guideline execution task, and the method comprises creating at least one primary guideline execution task based on the generalized guideline execution task.

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40. The computer-readable medium of claim 39, wherein the primary guideline execution task comprises at least one of subtasks, input elements, output elements, and execution constraints.

10 41. The computer-readable medium of claim 40, wherein the method comprising creating a process structure for the guideline based on the primary guideline execution task.

15 42. The computer-readable medium of claim 41, wherein the method comprises executing the guideline based on the process structure and the primary guideline execution task.

43. The computer-readable medium of claim 42, wherein the method comprises scheduling particular primary guideline execution tasks for execution based on the process structure and execution constraints of specific primary guideline execution tasks.

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44. The computer-readable medium of claim 35, wherein the method comprises storing the translated guideline in the generic guideline representation format, the translated guideline accessible for executing an instance of the guideline.

25 45. A computer-readable medium for executing a guideline encoded in a format based on one of a plurality of guideline representation models, the medium comprising at least one software component that when executed performs a method comprising:

identifying the encoding format of the guideline;

retrieving a mapping relationship between a generic guideline representation

30 model format and the identified guideline representation model format in which the guideline was originally encoded;

translating the guideline from the identified encoding format into a generic representation model format based on the mapping relationship, using a generic guideline execution engine capable of executing a guideline in the generic representation format, and capable of executing guidelines originally encoded in a format based on one of a plurality of

5 guideline representation models;

creating a primary guideline execution task based on at least one generalized guideline execution task defined by the generic representation model;

creating a process structure for the guideline based on the primary guideline execution task;

10 scheduling primary tasks for execution based on the process structure and execution constraints for the primary guideline execution task; and

executing at least one primary guideline execution task.

46. A computer-readable medium for executing a guideline comprising at least
15 one software component that when executed performs a method comprising executing an instance of the guideline encoded in a generic guideline representation model format translated from an original format based on one of a plurality of guideline execution models, the original format translated based on a mapping relationship between the generic guideline representation model format and the particular guideline representation model format in
20 which the guideline was originally encoded.

47. A computer-readable medium for providing a guideline encoded in a format based on a generic guideline execution model, the medium comprising at least one software component that when executed performs a method comprising translating at least one
25 representation element of a guideline encoded in a format based on one of a plurality of guideline execution models into structure elements and execution constraints of at least one generalized guideline execution task defined by the generic guideline execution model.

48. The computer-readable medium of claim 47, wherein translation is based on a
30 mapping relationship between the generic guideline execution model format and the guideline execution model format in which the guideline was originally encoded.

49. The computer-readable medium of claim 47, wherein the guideline provided in the generic execution model comprises at least one primary guideline execution task created based on the generalized guideline execution task.

5 50. The computer-readable medium of claim 49, wherein the primary guideline execution task comprises at least one of subtasks, input elements, output elements, and execution constraints.

10 51. The computer-readable medium of claim 50, wherein the guideline provided in the generic execution model comprises a process structure for the guideline created based on the primary guideline execution task.